

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. The Bulgarian Ministry of Health on Lenin Square in Sofia is the highest medical institution in the country and is responsible for all health and medical services. It has departments for hospitals, dispensaries, pediatrics, maternity care, dentistry, pharmacy, pharmaceutical production, venereal diseases, cancer research, etc. The Ministry directly and indirectly supervises the various medical administrative branches. It has under its direct control the district health services, which in turn supervise city and sub-district health services.
2. The City Health Service at Plovdiv, headed by a qualified physician, consists of the following three main departments:
 - a. The "sanitary - epidemic" department (San-Epid Stantsiya), responsible for measures against contagious diseases, and for the quality of foodstuffs;
 - b. The bacteriological department, working on bacteriological research (drinking water, etc.); and
 - c. The dispensary department, which controls all the dispensaries in the city.
3. Plovdiv, with a population of 160,000, has six clinics. These are as follows:
 - a. Clinic No. 1 located at No. 8 or No. 10 Nayden Gerov Street and Clinic No. 2 located on Ivan Vazov Street adjacent to the railroad station; these are the two largest clinics and include all departments, surgical, internal, skin, nose, throat and eyes, pediatrics, X-ray, gynecological, and laboratories; Clinic No. 2 has a small hospital of 60 beds, located next to the clinic, with internal, surgical, optical, pediatrics, maternity, and venereal diseases sections;
 - b. Clinic No. 3, on Rayko Daskalov Street, smaller than Clinics No. 1 and No. 2, has only internal, gynecological, pediatrics, and dentistry departments, as well as X-ray and laboratory equipment;

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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-2-

25X1

- c. Clinic No. 4, in the Borislav quarter, deals with internal diseases, pediatrics, gynecology, X-ray work, and dentistry;
 - d. Clinic No. 5, in the north part of the city (north of the Maritsa River), is similar in structure to Clinic No. 4; and
 - e. Clinic No. 6, located on Tsar Osvooboditel Boulevard, is identical to Clinics No. 4 and No. 5.
4. Patients living in the districts of Clinics No. 3, 5, and 6 receive treatment at Clinic No. 1 if their clinic does not have the necessary equipment or facilities. Patients living in the district of Clinic No. 4 go to Clinic No. 2.
 5. Clinics No. 1 and No. 2 have about the same number of staff workers. Clinic No. 1 has 28 doctors, including a surgeon, a specialist each for eye diseases, venereal diseases, ear, nose and throat, and internal diseases, two X-ray specialists, two pediatricians, two gynecologists, eight dentists, and eight general physicians who work for the sub-districts. The medical staff at Clinic No. 1 also includes approximately 30 nurses and two laboratory workers. Clinics No. 3, 4, 5, and 6 have a much smaller medical staff.
 6. Each of the six districts of the town, corresponding to the location of the clinics, is divided into sub-districts (Uchastki; quarter) under the control of a general practitioner, who receives patients at the clinic for five hours a day and also visits them at their homes when necessary, for three hours a day. In case of illness, residents are required to know to which district they belong. When necessary the physician of the sub-district directs patients to one of the departments in the clinic. A sub-district consists of 2,000 to 3,000 inhabitants. Some sub-districts of Clinic No. 1 have up to 8,000 residents.
 7. In addition to the small hospital attached to Clinic No. 2, Plovdiv has three hospitals:
 - a. The University Hospital (Meditsinska Akademiya Ivan Petrovich Pavlov), with 1,000 beds; located in the northwest section of the city; this is the only hospital in the city where blood is taken from voluntary donors; there is a great deal of propaganda for donors, addressed mainly to women, but the premium of money or foodstuffs formerly paid has been abolished;
 - b. The Hospital for Contagious Diseases, on Svobodinamie Square, with 100 beds; and
 - c. A military hospital located in the building of the former Catholic Hospital, in the northeast part of the city on the road to Asenovgrad; in peacetime has a maximum of 200 beds; it is the central hospital of the Second Army and controls all other hospitals of the Second Army; it is planned to enlarge the capacity to 1,000 beds; the hospital has been allocated an important role in the event of war; it has equipment for a number of planned mobile hospital groups.
 8. The University Hospital conducts medical research. There are no centers for bacteriological research and no laboratories for the production of sera.
 9. Only minor pharmaceutical products are produced at Plovdiv. All important medicines are imported from abroad, generally from the Satellite countries. There is a permanent shortage of supplies on the pharmaceutical market. Penicillin is given only to patients who are dangerously ill, and the drug is not available on the free market. Physicians prescribing penicillin must submit a special application signed by two or three other doctors. There is a big demand for American-made penicillin, smuggled on the black market. The cost of 200,000 units is approximately

25X1

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-3-

25X1

100 leva. Streptomycin is even more difficult to find and can only be obtained at clinics for tubercular patients. There is a severe shortage of PAS (Para Amino Salicylate), some of which comes from Western countries in personal packages and is confiscated by the customs upon arrival. There is an acute shortage of the drugs needed for heart diseases, and fears have been expressed that this will constitute a danger in wartime.

10. Bandages can be obtained freely. There is a shortage of medical instruments, and those produced in Bulgaria are of an inferior quality. Bulgarian-made scalpels must be sharpened after being used once or twice. Hypodermic syringes are imported in limited quantities from the USSR and Czechoslovakia.
11. Physicians ascribe the poor physical condition of the Bulgarian people to difficult working conditions, low rates of pay insufficient for minimum nourishment, and bad housing conditions.
12. The most prevalent disease is tuberculosis. The government does not publish tuberculosis statistics, but it is known that the doctors working in the tuberculosis dispensary in the Central Square and in the preventorium on Lady Strantsford Street in Plovdiv have long lists of patients who urgently need hospitalization.
13. Venereal diseases have declined since before World War II, and syphilis is rare. All venereal patients are subject to registration.
14. All citizens must attend courses in chemical warfare defense. Doctors teach first aid treatment in cases of gas poisoning, the extinguishing of mortar bombs, etc. A theoretical course of 20 lectures is followed by practical work.
15. Plovdiv has between 400 and 500 doctors. In 1920, when the city had a population of 80,000, there were only 44 doctors. Most of the villages have medical centers, with an average of one physician for a population of approximately 8,000.
16. The Health Department of Plovdiv has a special department for dental cases. This department has recently been put in charge of a campaign for fluorinating treatment for all children as a prophylactic for the preservation of their teeth. All the dentists in the city have been mobilized for this treatment, for which an unknown Soviet preparation is used. Dentists are of the opinion that it is not effective.
17. Adults receive periodical injections for typhoid fever, diphtheria, and cholera, but the authorities have not yet succeeded in treating the entire population. No immunization certificates are issued. Recently all children up to the age of 14 received tuberculosis immunization injections.
18. Doctors are often sent to the USSR or Czechoslovakia to specialize. Recently a pediatrician and a surgeon returned after spending 10 months in Czechoslovakia. Administrative personnel of the Ministry of Health are also sent to learn the system used in these countries; the Minister of Health has also been on such a mission. The general aim is to introduce a unified Soviet health system in all the Satellite countries.
19. Doctors are required to serve in the reserves up to the age of 65, and soldiers up to the age of 50. Women do not serve at all. The yearly period of reserve service differs, regular servicemen attending for 14- to 20-day periods for training in the use of modern weapons and methods. Youths 18 and 19 years old serve three and one-half years in the regular Army.
20. All physicians who have not served in the Bulgarian Army since the establishment of the Communist regime periodically attend 4- and 2-week special courses at military

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-4-

25X1

hospitals to study working methods to be used in time of war. This system applies to both administration and to the actual work. Doctors are told that they must follow official methods so closely that an operation begun by one doctor could be finished by another.

21. All doctors are registered by the Ministry of War and have a red military book in which the rank and duties in time of war are entered in code, as follows: the letters "VOS" followed by a number. Thus "VOS17" means that the bearer of the book will be placed in charge of a department in a hospital, while "VOS200" means that the bearer is unreliable. The "VOS" symbol is based on various factors, including the bearer's health.
22. In 1948-1949, a general medical check of all reserves was carried out, and "VOS" numbers allocated. Now only men who have been seriously ill or who have suffered an accident since their last check are examined again when they report for their yearly service in the reserves. For the check, groups of several hundred men were taken to village centers where two doctors, assisted by two Army officers for administrative purposes, carried out examinations. There is no check on the doctors and their judgement is final, but it is not possible to obtain a low health category by means of bribery.
23. Every soldier is issued a white bandage in a waterproof covering. A wounded soldier receives a health booklet from the regimental doctor, which he carries with him and in which treatment received, including anti-tetanus injection, and the state of disability are entered, to standardize the means of treatment.
24. Most university students, including those in medical departments, are graduates of the "Rab Fak" (Workers' Factory) residential schools, where Communist workers and supporters of the regime may study at government expense. Workers with three years of secondary studies attend the Rab Fak for one and one-half years, and those with five years of secondary education study only one year. Upon graduation from the Rab Fak, workers are admitted to the university without any examinations, and pay no fees. The former Paris Hotel at Plovdiv is used as a hostel for 100 students of the Rab Fak.
25. All medical students are subject to several weeks of military training during the summer vacation, during which they attend a course in military medicine. Upon graduation, the authorities select young doctors of acceptable proletarian origin for service in the Army. Those chosen may refuse this position without fearing the consequences. Women doctors may also be called for military service. All nurses receive a military rank during their studies, but this depends upon their achievement and is not automatically the same for all students. Upon graduation the nurses are allocated to military and civilian hospitals; working conditions are identical.
26. In time of war, small hospitals will be established immediately behind the front, not farther than six kilometers, with 20 to 30 beds and a physician each for internal diseases and urgent operations. A special ruling provides that stomach wounds must be operated on within six hours. After first aid, the wounded will be transported to the first base hospitals, which will be situated a short distance from the front and will have 100 beds. As soon as fighting stops in any particular area, the front hospitals will be evacuated and remain empty until fighting is renewed.
27. Every doctor up to the age of 60 must work for the government and may receive patients privately only in his spare time. After 60 he may practice privately if he does not work for the government. A military doctor with the rank of major earns 750 leva per month. He is allowed to practice privately.

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-5-

25X1

28. Physicians are taught to recognize the various gases and to deal with gas poisoning. There is much anti-Western propaganda on bacteriological warfare, but no courses on how to fight it, and nobody believes that it will really be used. There are no courses on the treatment of atomic bomb injuries.
29. Every working person, whether he is a high government official or a worker, receives medical and dental treatment at his district clinic by showing his registration card (Adresen Bilet). Medicines can be obtained at any pharmacy against a doctor's prescription. Medical treatment is free, but medicines have to be purchased and are received free only at hospitals.
30. The interruption of normal pregnancy is strictly forbidden, but all obstetricians will carry out abortions for fees of 500 to 1,000 leva, according to the financial situation of the patient. When medically indicated, interruptions are carried out at a hospital. Surgeons often cause an artificial hemorrhage when it is desired to terminate a pregnancy, in order to enable the woman to enter a hospital for medical reasons.
31. The following personalities were known [redacted] 25X1
- a. Major Evgeni Avramov, a doctor in the Plovdiv Military Hospital: he is a radiologist [redacted]
 - b. Major Karabadzhev (fnu), specialist for venereal diseases [redacted]
 - c. Major Velez (fnu), a specialist for internal diseases [redacted]

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